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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY: South Africa

SUBJECT: Proposed Government Standardized Specifications for Rubber Goods

PLACE ACQUIRED: [REDACTED]

DATE ACQUIRED: [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO : [REDACTED]

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. The government has proposed to set up standard specifications for rubber goods and establish facilities for testing products under these specifications. The cost of the testing would be borne by the rubber industry. Goods tested and found satisfactory would be eligible to carry a suitable label attesting to the fact.

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- 25X1X6 2. The proposal is being opposed by the manufacturers [REDACTED]. The reason for the proposal is difficult to determine. Discussions with government officials failed to find any dissatisfaction with products on the market or any improvement expected to be gained by the move. [REDACTED] it is only a means of providing more government jobs where loyal party people may be rewarded.

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- 25X1X6 3. It does not impress them [REDACTED] that establishment of such specifications will mean that all manufacturers to remain competitive will have to conform to minimum requirements and normal improvement will lag.
4. But the government, owning motor transport facilities, is important enough as a customer to force the measure through by refusing to purchase products not bearing their stamp of approval.

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